

# **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

## **DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

### **NEWS RELEASE**



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#### **2012 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release 4**

#### **Kuskokwim River Subsistence Salmon Fishing Restrictions**

#### **Emergency Order 3**

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at Bethel for subsistence salmon fishermen in the Kuskokwim River Drainage.

Effective 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, June 13, 2012 until 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, June 19, 2012 subsistence Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear is closed and subsistence fishing is restricted to the use of gillnets with 4-inch or less mesh not exceeding 60-feet in length in the Upper Section of Subdistrict 1-B to Tuluksak (Rolling Closure Section 2). This area is defined as that portion of the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries upstream from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located between the Kialik and Johnson Rivers to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately half a mile upstream of the Tuluksak River mouth. This section includes the slough (locally known as Utak Slough) on the northwest side of the Kuskokwim River adjacent to the Tuluksak River mouth. See the enclosed map for more detailed information on the Upper Section of Subdistrict 1-B to Tuluksak (Rolling Closure Section 2).

The current Bethel Test Fishery (BTF) Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) indicates that there are not enough Chinook salmon to meet the 2012 Chinook salmon Management Objective (Management Objective) that was agreed upon by the Department, the Federal Inseason Manager, and was supported by the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group (Working Group). During the Friday, June 8, Working Group meeting the Department and the Federal Inseason Manager presented a recommendation to initiate a 7-day rolling closure on the Kuskokwim River. The Working Group voted unanimously to support this recommendation.

If the BTF CPUE continues to indicate that the Management Objective will not be met, further management actions will be warranted. Furthermore, if the BTF CPUE indicates that the Management Objective is likely to be met, subsistence restrictions may be reduced.

The subsistence salmon fishing closure on the Lower Section of Subdistrict 1-B (Rolling Closure Section 1) as announced in News Release 3 on June 8 remains in effect. Subsistence fishing remains open 7 days per week above the regulatory markers located half a mile upstream of the Tuluksak River mouth.

The Department will announce subsistence restrictions in sections of the Kuskokwim River above Rolling Closure Section 2 in subsequent news releases.

Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office and through local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.

**For additional information concerning this news release:**

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